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S. S. Route, Box 175A
Corrales, N. M. 87048

July 15, 1970

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Genetics Dept.
Stanford University
Stanford, Cal. 94305

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

We were quite surprised recently to learn of your public statements to the effect that population control in the United States at the present time is undesirable. *
In view of the growing scientific concern for environmental issues such as control of air and water pollution we find it difficult to understand your position on population, since it seems obvious to us that overpopulation often contributes to these other ecological problems.

Since we are all working toward a common goal - the preservation of our environment - it seems tragic to us that leaders of the scientific community should begin quarrelling over whether or not population control is the main issue. We feel all environmental issues are interrelated so deeply that to become divided on their relative importance now can only mean further disastrous delays which our environment can ill afford.

No reply to this letter is expected, but we urge you to reconsider your public statements on population control and to work instead for a unified and effective popular movement to solve all our ecological woes.

Sincerely,

Neal & Mona Wilgus
Neal and Mona Wilgus

* Will you please enlighten me where you have read any such statement attributed to me?

If by "control" you mean "coercion", I would have to protest -- both about the moral and the politically-effective aspects of proposals to use intrusive means to accomplish ends about which there can be no disagreement.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

*I enclose some of my
most critical statements on the subject.*